



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report on the method of collecting morbidity statistics in the State of Pennsylvania.

Assistant Surgeon-General Eager was directed, October 17, to proceed to Harrisburg, Pa., and to confer with the State department of health of Pennsylvania in regard to the collection of morbidity statistics. He reports as follows, under date of October 23, on the method adopted for that purpose by the health authorities of the State of Pennsylvania:

Under the provisions of an act of assembly, April 27, 1905, regulations have been promulgated requiring all physicians practicing within the limits of the State to make immediate report of certain diseases occurring in their practice. In the case of cities and boroughs, the report is made to the secretary of the board of health of such cities and boroughs; when occurring within the limits of a township, the report is made to the county medical inspector and, also, to the department of health at Harrisburg.

Notification is required in the case of 29 diseases, namely: Actinomycosis, anthrax, bubonic plague, cerebro-spinal meningitis, chicken pox, cholera, diphtheria, epidemic dysentery, erysipelas, German measles, glanders, hydrophobia, leprosy, malarial fever, measles, mumps, pneumonia (true), puerperal fever, relapsing fever, scarlet fever, smallpox, tetanus, trachoma, trichiniasis, tuberculosis (form required to be specified), typhoid fever, typhus fever, whooping cough, and yellow fever.

The reports are made on a standard postal card, giving the date of the report, the full name of the patient, occupation, nativity, age, sex, color, and address of patient, including, if in a city or borough, the name of the street and the house number, and the name of the city or borough and county; if in a township, the post-office address of the patient, the name of the township and county, the name of the disease, the date of the onset of the disease, the name and occupation of the householder in whose family the disease has occurred, the number of children in the household attending school, the name of the school or schools, and the name and address of the physician making the report. In addition to the regular reports, special immediate reports by telephone or telegraph of all cases of smallpox are required. The city and borough boards of health are required to report weekly to the

State department of health on prescribed forms. A report is also made for any fraction of a week occurring at the end of a month, so that the first weekly report in any month begins with the first day of the month.

Hospitals and all other institutions for the care of the sick are required to make special monthly reports of the 29 communicable diseases enumerated. These reports of institutions are carefully checked in the State department of health to prevent duplicating with local reports.

There is also a special form for the weekly report of the city of Philadelphia for the reason that in that city the street name and house number as well as the name of the patient are reported.

Daily reports of communicable diseases in townships are made to the State department of health, confirmatory of the reports of cases forwarded directly on postal cards by medical practitioners.

Weekly summaries of communicable diseases in cities, boroughs, and townships are also forwarded to Harrisburg.

The reports of the 29 communicable diseases covered by regulation are recorded in registers at the State department of health, and the data are arranged by the aid of punching machines for tabulation in the annual report of the department. Defective cards are returned for completion. The first annual report is to be made soon after January 1, 1907. No bulletins of statistical information have yet been issued.

The collection of morbidity statistics was begun November 1, 1905. During the 10 months ended August 31, 1906, there were 75,329 cases reported. The State law provides for prosecution for failure to notify, but it has not yet been found necessary to proceed against any physician for not reporting. There are about 10,000 medical practitioners in the State of Pennsylvania.

The death certificates, which are of the standard form of the United States Census Office, are used as a check on the reporting of morbidity. In every case of death from any of the 29 diseases in question an inquiry is made to ascertain whether the requirements regarding notification of the disease have been complied with.

During the first month that the work was in operation 4,839 cases of notifiable disease were reported, during the second month 6,620 cases, during the third month 10,148 cases, and during the fourth month 12,539 cases, at which time the system was believed to be in full operation. The lowest number, 3,963, reported in any single month was for July, 1906.

The reports of morbidity to be made by the Pennsylvania department of health are to follow, as far as applicable, the system adopted in the preparation of the yearly mortality statistics of the United States Census Office. The collection of morbidity statistics in the State of Pennsylvania is under the supervision of Dr. Wilmer R. Batt, chief of the bureau of statistics, department of health, Harrisburg.

Report from Savannah, Ga.—Malarial fever on steamship Melderskin from Cristobal.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Linley, stationed at Savannah Quarantine Station, reports as follows:

December 17, 1906. Arrived, steamship *Melderskin* ten days from Cristobal; clean bill of health. Five cases fever while at Cristobal